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162nd Wing Retiree News

May 2015

This newsletter is published by the 162nd Wing Retirees Office for the sole purpose of providing information relevant to retirees. Photos in this publication are from Retirees Office files or public domain, unless otherwise noted. Questions or comments regarding this publication should be forwarded to the address listed in the upper left-hand corner of this page.



Did you know?



The Douglas C-54 Skymaster was assigned to the 162nd from 1968 to 1971.

11th Annual White Mountain Picnic scheduled for June

On June 18, 2015, the 11th Annual Arizona Air National Guard White Mountain Retirees Picnic will be held at Charlie Clark's Steakhouse in Pinetop, AZ. It's a popular event and a summer destination each year for a large group of ANG retirees and family members. This is a perfect opportunity to visit with old friends, escape the desert heat, and breathe some fresh mountain air. Picnic details are as follows:

Where: In the Orchard behind Charlie Clark's Steakhouse
1701 E. White Mountain Blvd., Pinetop, AZ 85935.

When: Thursday, June 18, 2015. Start time is 3:00 p.m.

Food, Drink and Parking: Meal included in the attendance fee. Drinks available for purchase at the picnic. Vehicle parking on-site is free.

Cost: \$20.00 per person. Please RSVP by 6 June. Include the first and last names of each attendee so we can have name tags ready. Make a check out to Hugh Kennedy and mail names and check to:

162WG Retirees Office
1650 E Perimeter Way
Tucson, AZ 85706-6052



Beat the desert heat.
Plan a summertime
visit to the cool,
pine-scented
White Mountains
of Arizona.

For information on the picnic call or email the Retirees Office.
Contact info is in the upper LH corner of this page.



Retiree Events

May - September 2015

Monthly Retirees Luncheon
Held the second Tuesday of each month at the Golden Corral Buffet, 6865 N Thornydale Rd., 11:00 am. Scheduled dates are:

May 12
June 9
July 14
Aug 11
Sept 8



Monthly Flightline Luncheon
Held the last Monday of each month at the Skybox Restaurant, NE corner of River Rd. and Craycroft, 12 noon. Scheduled dates are:

May 25
June 29
July 27
Aug 31



Seasonal Monthly White Mountain Retirees Breakfast
Held the second Wednesday of each month from May to September at The Picnic Basket, 436 E. White Mountain Blvd, Pinetop, AZ, 7:30 am. Scheduled 2015 dates are:

May 13
June 10
July 8
Aug 12
Sept 9



Monthly Pilot's Breakfast
Held the first Tuesday of each month at the IHOP, 5101 E. Grant Rd., 7 am.



Annual White Mountain Picnic
Scheduled for Thursday, June 18 at Charlie Clark's Steakhouse, 1701 E. White Mtn Blvd., Pinetop, AZ, 3 pm.

162nd 60th Anniversary Party scheduled for 2016

The Wing 60th Anniversary party is in the preliminary stages and we are working on an Anniversary book. If you have any photos, stories, or other material from the good old days and would like to share them, contact us!

Come visit our office or call us. We would be glad to visit you and pick things up. If you want your items back, we will return them to you.

Looking for answers about 162nd history

We are looking for information to accurately update the 162nd historical files. Some documents are lost and we are looking for answers to questions from the 1950's. Here are the questions:

Who designed the cat patch?

The original "Cat Patch" first appeared in September 1959 and is still in use today by the 152nd Fighter Squadron. The name of the original artist has been lost to time.



Where did the name TAGRA come from?

In May 1958 TAGRA had no name and the movement to build a recreational facility was called Project X. The dream was to create a facility where Guard members could meet for lunch and hang out after work. It would also serve as a gathering place where Guardsmen and their families could hold special events. There was a contest to provide a name for the facility. We know the winning name was TAGRA, short for Tucson Air Guard Recreation Association, but we don't know who submitted the name that won the contest.

Who won the 1958 Chevrolet raffle?

To help fund the building of TAGRA a new 1958 Chevrolet Bel Air was raffled off. The raffle winner was announced around September 1958. Unfortunately we don't remember who won the car.



Past leads have not yielded results so we are still seeking answers to these important historical questions. If you can help we would like to hear from you. Contact the 162nd Retirees Office at (520) 295-6663 or send an email to 162retireesoffice@gmail.com.

History Revisited

The following excerpt was taken from the Project X news bulletin dated 3 July 1958, Vol III

NAME CONTEST

We have decided to extend the name contest for the recreational area until July 13, 1958. We have received quite a few (of) very good suggestions and want to receive a lot more. Remember there is a nice useful gift waiting for the WINNAH! When you're thinking of names, keep in mind that this name will be permanentand make it easy enough for the kids to say it too! We want everyone to know our new recreation area and to visit it often. Just write your suggested name on a piece of paper with your own name and address too!!! Send the names to:

162ND FIGHTER GROUP (AD)
P.O. BOX 3009
TUCSON, ARIZONA

ATTN: PUBLICITY COMM.

Judges for the contest will be:

Lt Richard Goeke Lt James Krauth
S/Sgt William Higgins Maj Donald Morris
Lt Ernest Kleinschmidt T/Sgt Jack Potter



Memorial expansion completed

On January 20, 2015, a third granite slab was installed at the Tucson Air Guard Memorial site at the 162nd Wing. With several current Guardsmen volunteers assisting, the slab was carefully lifted into place. This was the final step after many months of planning and organization designed to expand the memorial. John Salazar, Memorial Board of Directors President, looks on as the newest granite slab is prepared for installation.



The entire memorial expansion operation was conducted in a methodical, professional and safe manner as the heavy but fragile granite slab was moved to its permanent location. With the installation completed, workers and observers lined up for a celebratory photo.



Left to right: Jaminh Vo, Rene Felix, Ruben Herrera, John Palermo, Mark Chambers, John Salazar and two representatives from Tucson Marble and Granite.

February Retirees Luncheon draws an enthusiastic crowd, and a surprise visitor

The first commander of the Tucson Air Guard, retired MG Don Morris, was a surprise visitor at the February Retirees Luncheon. Shown below are General Morris with two of his wingmen. On the left is retired MG Don Shepperd; on the right is retired Lt Col Pete Noebel.



Retirees Remembered

The following retired and current 162nd members recently passed away. Sincere condolences are extended to the family and friends of these dedicated former friends and coworkers who served with us at the Tucson Air National Guard:



Harry van der Voort: Harry was a current working 162nd member serving the unit in Avionics.

Juan Salcido: Juan was a retired weekend Guardsman who served the unit in Civil Engineering.

John "Sheet Iron" Smith: John was the first enlisted member to sign up with the newly activated Tucson Air Guard in 1956. He served the unit for many years in the Sheet Metal Shop.

Charles "Chuck" Aegerter: Chuck was a long-time unit member who served in the Fire Department.

Dale Fisher: Dale was another long-time unit member who served the 162nd as a crew chief and in the phase docks in Aircraft Maintenance.

Henry "Hank" Majeski: Hank was one of the early unit members who served with us for many years in Material Control.

Dany Daniel: Dany was a current working unit member serving the 162nd in Operations.

David Mallick: Dave was a retired Guardsman who served with us in Base Supply and Finance.

Karen Veltman: Karen was the first female to enlist with the 162nd. She was a member of the unit for many years serving in Base Supply, Training, Personnel and Communications.

Jeff Glaser: Jeff was a full-time unit member who served with us first in the Engine Shop and then in Aircraft Maintenance.

John "Jack" Donovan: Jack was a pilot who served with the ANG Test Center at the 162nd.

Below - Attendees at the February Retirees Luncheon gather for a group photo with the first commander of the Tucson Air Guard. The March and April luncheons also had a large turnout.



10 Feb 2015